



# Education Watch

Enhancing Flexibility & Accountability ■ Leaving No Child Behind

U.S. House Education & the Workforce Committee ■ John Boehner, Chairman  
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<http://edworkforce.house.gov/edwatch>

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## Democrats Agree to Escape Route for Students in Failing Schools

After months of debate, Democrats on the House Education & the Workforce Committee have agreed to back President Bush's efforts to give parents of children in dangerous, failing schools new options and new hope in the struggle for equal educational opportunity.

H.R. 1 provides parents with **immediate public school choice**, allowing them to remove their children from failing schools after just one year of failure, and allowing them to send them to another, better-performing public school of their choice. The President's original plan gave children that option after two years of failure.

The bill also gives parents the right to choose supplemental educational services -- including tutoring, after school services, and summer school from private, faith-based providers -- after three years of chronic failure. This agreement will mark **the first time the federal government has allowed federal Title I dollars to flow to private entities** to provide direct services to disadvantaged children.

These changes represent a significant departure from the status quo and will empower low-income parents with new options and new choices. They represent an important step toward equal educational opportunity in America -- but not by any means the final step.

Chairman John Boehner has vowed to continue the fight for private school choice when he brings H.R. 1 before the full House.

### Message of the Day

***No Child Left Behind empowers parents with new options and offers hope to students in failing schools.***

- ❑ *H.R. 1 extends unprecedented new opportunities to children in chronically failing schools.*
- ❑ *President Bush's plan provides special assistance to failing schools; his safety valve initiative offers hope to disadvantaged students, and enhances parents' ability to make informed choices about their children's education.*
- ❑ *No child should be forced to remain trapped in a school that will not teach and will not change.*

### DAILY EDUCATION FACTS

- H.R. 1 requires states and school districts to prepare annual report cards on their schools to better inform parents about the quality of their child's school.
- The bill gives low-performing schools the chance to improve by offering them financial and other technical assistance to improve and increase student achievement.
- The President's plan establishes a rigorous system of rewards and sanctions for states and school districts to hold them accountable for increasing student achievement.

### QUOTE OF THE DAY

*"[S]chool choice is not simply an accountability issue, it is a moral and civil rights issue. It is about empowering poor parents with the option of a better education when their children are trapped in schools that repeatedly fail to meet basic standards."* **William J. Bennett, Los Angeles Times, May 4, 2001**